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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF BEACONSFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year 1962

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BEACONSFIELD

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1962

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BEACONSFIELD

Chairman of the Council: Mrs. E.M.Diamond.
Vice-Chairman of the Council: Mr. O.S. Puckle.

Public Health Committee.

Chairman: Mr. J.L. Kirkconel.
Vice-Chairman: Mr. C.G.Mylrea.

Councillors:
Mrs. Y.M. Astbury.
Mr. R.C.Brown.
Mr. H.A.H. Gray.
Mr. G.H.D.R. Greene.
Mr. D.R. Mullis.
Rear-Admiral P. Skelton.
Mr. S.N. Whitehead.

Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health: R.E.Atkinson, M.B., Ch.B.,D.P.H.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Amersham Rural District Council, Chesham Urban District Council, Deputy Divisional Schools Medical Officer, and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Public Health Inspector: Mr. P.J. Bunce, A.R.S.H.

The Public Health Inspector is also the Building Inspector, Petroleum Officer and Rodent Officer.

Tel: Beac. 1173

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Beaconsfield.

July 1963.

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Beaconsfield Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Council's District for 1962.

The incidence of all the notifiable infectious diseases was remarkably low. There was no case of poliomyelitis or of diphtheria notified during the year. The usual standards for judging the well-being of a community are the prevalence and death rates from certain conditions, such as the infant mortality rate, the maternal mortality rate, the rate of notification of new cases of tuberculosis and the tuberculosis death rate. All these were low in 1962.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the willing co-operation of the other Chief Officers of the Council throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R.E. Atkinson.
Medical Officer of Health.

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SECTION 1.

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

1. General.

Population (Estimated mid-year)	10,330.
Area (acres) of District	5,314.
Number of habitable houses (per Rate Book)	3,088.
Rateable value of area	£203,864.
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£855.

2. Vital Statistics.

(a) Live Births:

	Males	Females	Total.
Legitimate	85	82	167
Illegitimate..	1	5	6
Total live birhts	86	87	173

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	3.5
Live birth rate per 1,000 population ...	16.7
Comparability factor	0.94
Corrected birth rate	15.7

(b) Still-birth rate per 1,000 live & still-births 11.4
Total live and still-births 175

(c) Deaths:

Infant deaths	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	11.5
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	-
Maternal deaths (including abortion).. ...	1
Death rate per 1,000 population	9.2
Comparability Factor	1.15
Corrected death rate per 1,000 population...	10.6

The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differ from that of England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales and the corresponding corrected rates for any other area.

Causes of Death.

As will be seen from the following table, the two principal causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation, which caused 52% of the deaths and cancer which caused 16% :-

Disease.	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis	1	-	1
2. Other infective & parasitic diseases ...	-	1	1
3. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
4. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ...	3	-	3
5. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
6. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
7. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms ...	7	4	11
8. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
9. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	3	7	10
10. Coronary disease, angina	14	9	23
11. Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
12. Other heart disease	6	4	10
13. Other circulatory disease	1	4	5
14. Influenza	1	2	3
15. Pneumonia	1	1	2
16. Bronchitis	-	3	3
17. Diabetes	1	-	1
18. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	-	1
19. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
20. Enteritis	1	-	1
21. Congenital Malformations	-	1	1
22. Pregnancy childbirth abortion	-	1	1
23. Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
24. All other accidents	1	1	2
25. Suicides	-	1 (carbon monoxide poisoning)	1
26. Other defined and ill-defined disease...	4	4	8
	50	45	95

COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM (Urban Districts only)

Population, Births and Mortality Rates for the Year 1962

District	Population Census 1961	Reg. Gen. Estimated population Mid-1962	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population.	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population.	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births.	Neo-Natal Mortality rate per 1,000 Births.	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live & Still-Births.
URBAN								
Aylesbury	27,891	29,090	22.0 (639)	8.7 (253)	0.172 (5)	15.6 (10)	11.0 (7)	- (-)
Beaconsfield	10,019	10,330	16.7 (173)	9.2 (95)	0.097 (1)	11.6 (2)	- (-)	5.71 (1)
Bletchley	17,093	18,290	22.9 (418)	7.6 (139)	0.109 (2)	19.1 (8)	12.0 (5)	- (-)
Buckingham	4,377	4,390	19.4 (85)	9.3 (41)	0.228 (1)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Chesham	16,236	17,510	23.5 (411)	10.1 (177)	- (-)	19.5 (8)	17.0 (7)	- (-)
Eton	3,901	5,450	15.4 (84)	6.6 (36)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
High Wycombe	50,301	52,880	19.8 (1,048)	9.3 (491)	0.038 (2)	16.2 (17)	9.5 (10)	- (-)
Linslade	4,127	4,310	17.4 (75)	10.2 (44)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Marlow	8,704	8,930	23.4 (209)	9.1 (81)	- (-)	19.1 (4)	19.1 (4)	- (-)
Newport Pagnell	4,722	4,720	16.7 (79)	18.0 (85)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Slough	80,503	82,700	20.5 (1,692)	7.9 (657)	0.048 (4)	13.6 (23)	7.7 (13)	- (-)
Wolverton	13,116	12,990	14.5 (188)	15.6 (203)	0.077 (1)	63.8 (12)	47.9 (9)	- (-)
Total Urban	240,990	251,590	20.3 (5,101)	9.1 (2,302)	0.064 (16)	16.5 (84)	10.8 (55)	0.19 (1)
TOTAL COUNTY	486,183	505,130	19.2 (9,714)	9.6 (4,865)	0.046 (23)	17.9 (174)	12.5 (121)	0.10 (1)
ENGLAND & WALES			18.0	11.9	0.066	21.4	15.1	0.35

NOTE: In view of the small numbers on which some of the rates quoted are based, the actual numbers are given in parenthesis for the purpose of clearer comparison.

SECTION 11

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. Hospital Services.

Beaconsfield is just within the area of the Windsor Group Management Committee of the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. The Council has one member serving on the Windsor Group Hospital Management Committee and the House Committee of the Taplow Hospital.

Hospitals available for the District in the Windsor Group Management Committee Area:-

Tuberculosis	Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common.
General	King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, Maidenhead Hospital: Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow, Bucks: Upton Hospital Slough, and Iver, Denham and Langley Cottage Hospital, Iver.
Infectious Diseases	Maidenhead Isolation Hospital.
Maternity	Canadian Red Cross Hospital: Collinswood Maternity, Upton Maternity and Princess Christian Maternity Hospitals.
Mental Deficiency Hospitals	Church Hill House, Easthampstead, Bracknell, Berks: Clarefield Court, nr. Maidenhead, and Binfield Park, Binfield, Berks.
Mental Hospital	St. Bernards Hospital, Southall, Middx.
Psychiatric Out-patient sessions	King Edward VII Hospital, Upton Hospital and Maidenhead Hospital.

The boundaries of the district flank those of the adjoining Oxford Hospital Region, and many patients are referred to hospitals in that area.

2. Laboratory services

Bacteriological laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratories at Oxford and Luton.

Samples of water and sewage effluent for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst, Southwark Borough Council.

3. Nursing in the Home and Midwifery Service.

The following Nurse Midwives practised in the Town during the year as follows:-

Miss G.I. Snell, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.
Miss M. Towers, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.

Their address is: Nurses' Home, Candlemas Mead, Beaconsfield. Telephone: Beaconsfield 954.

Miss M.R.Taylor, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.
(Area Relief District Nurse/Midwife)

Address: 3, "The Ferns", London End, Beaconsfield.

4. Child Welfare Centres

	Location	Session	M.O. attends.
(a) Beaconsfield	The Old Rectory.	1st & 3rd Fri. 2 p.m. each month.	Each session.
(b) Holtspur	St.Thomas' Church Hall.	1st & 3rd Tues.2 p.m. each month.	3rd Tues. each month.

5. Ambulance Service.

This service is provided by the County Council. The Beaconsfield area is covered by the High Wycombe Station, West End Street, High Wycombe (Telephone No.: High Wycombe 1871).

SECTION III

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948/51.

Section 47.

Under this Section when persons (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditons, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, the local authority may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place. It has not been necessary to take any action under this section during the year.

Section 50.

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made. There has been no cause for any action under this Section.

SECTION IV

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Apart from an epidemic of measles, the district was comparatively free from notifiable infectious disease during the year.

Diseases.	Number of Cases.	
	1962	1961
Measles.	74	203
Puerperal Fever.	1	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	5
Tuberculosis.	2	1
Acute Pneumonia.	-	-
Meningococcal Infection.	-	-
Food Poisoning.	-	1
Dysentery.	2	-

Immunisation and Vaccination.

(a) Smallpox Vaccination.

Approximately 86% of children under the age of one were vaccinated against smallpox during the year. This compares favourably with the figures for 1961 (75%) and no doubt follows the unfortunate occurrence of cases of smallpox in 1961.

(b) Whooping Cough, Diphtheria & Tetanus Immunisation.

In 1962, Triple Antigen (Combined Dip./WC./Tet.) Vaccine or Combined Antigen (Dip./Tet.) were given when possible. The actual numbers of children immunised are shown below. The reason for the smaller number given this year at Child Welfare Clinics is because we now start off with the Oral Poliomyelitis vaccine at six months of age.

Year of Birth	1962	1961
Primary Diphtheria	-	1
Primary Diphtheria/ Whooping Cough	-	-
Primary Diphtheria/ Tetanus	3	11
Primary Diphtheria/ Whooping Cough/Tetanus	20	73
Re-immunisations	-	-
Primary Whooping Cough	-	-
Tetanus	-	5
Total	23	90

(c) Poliomyelitis.

No separate figures for poliomyelitis vaccination are available for the district. No deaths occurred from poliomyelitis during the year.

SECTION V

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

General Administration.

Day-to-Day inspections of houses, shops and factories have been carried out through the year. The following is a summary of the visits paid during the year ended the 31st December 1962.

General Sanitation.

Water supply	2
Drainage	87
Tents, Vans and Sheds	196
Outworkers	5
Factories and Workshops	28
Licensed Premises	17
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	29
Rats and Mice	375
Atmospheric Pollution	3
Schools	7
Public Conveniences	3
Visits to filthy & verminous premises ...	Nil
Miscellaneous	51

Housing.

Public Health Act: No. of houses inspected	63
Public Health Act: No. of visits paid ...	14
Housing Act: No. of houses inspected ...	35
Housing Act: No. of visits paid	61
Overcrowding: No. of Houses inspected ...	Nil
Overcrowding: No. of visits paid	Nil
Improvement Grant Inspections	7
Miscellaneous	11

Infectious Diseases.

Visits following notifications of Infectious Diseases.	14

Noise Nuisances.

Visits following notification of nuisance	7

Visits ot food premises.

Butchers	37
Canteens	7
Fishmongers and Poulterers	5
Grocers	24
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	17
Dairies and Milk Distributors...	8
Food Preparing Premises	23
Restaurants...	31
Bakehouses	4

Service of Notices.

No. of Informal Notices (all types) served during 1962	39
No. of Informal Notices complied with ...	37
No. of Statutory Notices served during 1962 ...	Nil
No. of Statutory Notices complied with ...	Nil

1. Water Supply.

There is a piped water supply to the whole of the Urban District. The supply is provided by the Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company and the Bucks. Water Board. The former serves the Old and the New Towns and the latter, Holtspur and District.

The water contains a high degree of temporary hardness, and therefore no problems from plumbo-solvency occur. An adequate supply has been maintained throughout the district during the year. The water samples sent for Bacteriological Examination proved to be satisfactory.

There are now no wells supplying drinking water within the district.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

Nearly the whole of the district is connected to one of the two sewerage systems. The Old Town is sewered to a modified broad irrigation works at Hedgerley Lane and the New Town and Holtspur areas are sewered to the disposal works off Riding Lane at Holtspur.

The majority of the cesspools remaining are for premises which are outlying and these are emptied free, within 48 hours of receiving notification.

It is apparent that both sewage works were not originally designed to handle the amount of sewage that is at present gravitating to them, and although many modifications have been made over the years to cope with the increased quantity, it is considered that some extensive alterations will have to be made in the near future. The sewerage systems however, are adequate.

3. Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

The house-to-house collection of refuse has been maintained on a weekly basis throughout the year. Twice weekly collections are made to shop premises as required, and in these cases a small annual charge is made.

The refuse is taken to a private tip just outside the Beaconsfield Urban District and is being used as back-filling to a gravel pit. The paper salvage is sorted, baled and sold to one of the local paper mills. Metal is taken by a scrap merchant.

Twenty Informal Notices were served on private households requiring renewal of defective dustbins.

4. Housing.

The number of properties, shown below, controlled by the Council at the end of December 1962, was 767 as compared with 736 at December 1961.

Housing Accommodation:	December 1962	December 1961.
Pre-war Council Houses & Flats..	224	224
Post-war Council Houses & Flats.	503	472
Prefabricated Bungalows	40	40
	767	736

Since the war, the Council have made every effort to provide units of varied accommodation for all needs, as follows:-

4 Bedroom (Parlour) Type Houses	4
3 Bedroom (Parlour) Type Houses	20
3 Bedroom (Non-Parlour) Type Houses ...	220
2 Bedroom (Non-Parlour) Type Houses ...	133
Bungalows	15
Flats	111
	503

The following figures show the housing development in the district during the last ten years:-

Year	Private Development. No. of Housing Units.	Council Development No. of Housing Units.	Total
1953	42	41	83
1954	49	51	100
1955	63	20	83
1956	75	24	99
1957	89	3	92
1958	124	55	179
1959	87	8	95
1960	136	8	144
1961	105	8	113
1962	117	31	148
Total Houses built in last 10 years:	887	249	1,136

There are at present 44 Private and 2 Council houses under construction.

5. Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958
House Purchase and Housing Act 1959.

Standard Improvement Grants.

No applications for Standard Grant were received.

Discretionary Improvement Grants.

It is the policy of the Council to issue Discretionary Grants in very special circumstances only. No applications have been received which fall within this category.

6. Housing Act, 1957.

The following is a summary of day-to-day complaints dealt with during the course of the year:-

Repairs to gutters	2
Repairs to chimney stacks	1
Repairs to roofs (dampness abated)	4
Repairs to drains (including rainwater drains)	9
Repairs to window frames	1
Repairs to water closet	6
Repairs to doors	1
Repairs to walls (dampness abated)	2
Repairs to plaster	1
Repairs to sashcords	5

7. Moveable Dwellings.

There are still two caravan sites within the district where appeals against the conditions imposed by the Planning Authority are pending. It is hoped that the appeal dates will be fixed early in 1963.

8. Rodent Infestation and Destruction.

A summary of the number of rodent infestations dealt with during the year ended 31st December, 1962, is shown below:-

Number of premises inspected for rats & mice (after notification of infestation) ...	265
Number of premises inspected for rats & mice whilst attending to other matters (estimated)	110
Number of treatments (Private & business premises)	108

The estimated figure of 110 has mainly been made up of building inspections carried out when premises are being built, altered, extended or modernised.

9. Disinfestation.

One case of ants in a school canteen and one of book-lice in a private house were dealt with during the year.

SECTION VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

The Bucks County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority, sample milk produced in the district. These samples are sent for bacteriological examination, primarily for Tubercle Bacilli. The examination also, however, reveals the presence of Brucella organisms. When such organisms are isolated, the District Medical Officer of Health is informed.

One dairyman in the district produces and bottles his own T.T. milk, which is sold raw. He has agreed to carry out six monthly "Ring Tests" on the milk produced. The milk from cows giving positive results is sent to be pasteurised.

It is a great pleasure to record the co-operation which this Department has received, both from the dairyman and his Veterinary Surgeon.

2. Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Routine inspections of the premises subject to the above Regulations have been carried out, and where necessary, the owners have been asked to make alterations or additions.

3. Food Inspection.

The following foodstuffs have been voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

Description.		Weight.			
		CWT.	QRS.	LB.	OZ.
Home killed meat	...	2	1	16	0
Canned meat	...	-	-	3	4
Other foods	...	-	1	8	0

44 packets of frozen food were also surrendered following a breakdown in a refrigerated cabinet.

4. Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.

There are now 31 shops selling ice-cream within the district, only pre-wrapped ice-cream being sold.

SECTION VII.

1. Pet Animals Act, 1951.

There are no Pet Animal shops within the district.

2. Game Act, 1831.

Number of Game Licences issued:- 7.

3. Petroleum Regulations Act 1928 & 1936.

Number of Licences renewed:- 12.
A total of 17 inspections were made under the Regulations.

4. Rag, Flock & Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

Number of premises registered:- 1.

R.E. Atkinson.
Medical Officer of Health.

P.J. Bunce.
Public Health Inspector.

APPENDIX I

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	7	5	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority...	33	23	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)...	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	40	28	3	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Section 110 and 111)

Nature of Work. (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1)(c). (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists. (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises. (5)	Notices served. (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing Apparel, Making, etc., cleaning and washing.	3	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, Lace curtains & nets.	2	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	5	-	-	-	-	-